Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the

application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing secure electronic commerce

transactions between a user and ~~with~~ multiple merchants comprising:

establishing a secure communication link between at least one client computer

system and a vendor computer system;

transmitting transaction information ~~between~~ to said client computer system ~~and~~

from said vendor computer system enabling a user at said client computer system to select

and purchase, via said vendor computer system, items listed in a plurality of merchant

computer ~~system~~ systems ~~by a plurality of merchants~~ without said user having direct

access to said merchant computer ~~system~~ systems; ~~and~~

receiving at said vendor computer system a first request from a client computer

system concerning an item listed on a first of said merchant computer systems;

modifying said first request into a modified request from said vendor computer

system to said merchant computer system;

receiving at said vendor computer system from said first merchant computer

system a first response to said modified request, said first response comprising a

merchant web page comprising one or more hyper-text links;

modifying ~~responses from said merchant computer system to said client computer~~

~~system~~ said first response at said vendor computer system ~~thereby controlling information~~

~~exchange between said merchant computer system and~~ into a modified response from said vendor computer system to said client computer system ~~through said vendor computer system~~;

wherein said modifying ~~responses from said merchant computer system~~ said first response into said modified response comprises:

modifying said ~~merchant content~~ one or more hyper-text links ~~obtained from said merchant computer system~~ in said first response to redirect ~~one or more~~ said one or more hyper-text ~~elements~~ links to said vendor computer system; and

reframing said merchant web page ~~content~~ as a web page of said vendor computer system; and

wherein said transmitting said transaction information comprises transmitting said web page of said vendor computer system to said client computer system.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said transmitting step further comprises:

generating a purchase order for said ~~items~~ item after said user's selection of ~~at least one of~~ said item ~~items~~ for purchase ~~from said merchant computer system~~ via said vendor computer system.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising: obtaining payment from said user; and

transmitting payment to ~~at least one of said plurality of merchants~~ to said first merchant on behalf of said user.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 3, wherein said payment is obtained by an operator of said vendor computer system.

5-6. (Canceled)

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of transmitting transaction information further comprises:

displaying one or more icons corresponding to said plurality of merchants at said client computer for user selection; ~~and~~

providing a listing of said items listed in said merchant computer system to said user at said client system computer via said vendor computer system, in response to said user selection of at least one of said one or more icons.

8. (Currently Amended) A method for performing secure electronic commerce between a user and ~~with~~ multiple merchants comprising:

establishing a secure communication link between a client computer system and a vendor computer system; and

transmitting transaction information ~~between~~ to said client computer system ~~and~~ from said vendor computer system enabling a user at said client computer system to obtain, via said vendor computer system, items listed in a plurality of merchant computer systems by one or more merchants without said user having direct access to said merchant computer systems ~~system~~;

monitoring requests for information from ~~an information exchange between~~ said client computer system ~~and said plurality of merchant computer systems~~ regarding said

listed items at said vendor computer system to request ~~obtain said~~ transaction information regarding said listed items from said merchant computer systems; ~~and~~

modifying responses regarding said listed items received by said vendor computer system from at least one of said plurality of merchant computer systems ~~to said client computer system at said vendor computer system~~ to route at least a portion of said information exchange through said vendor computer system;

wherein said modifying ~~said~~ responses comprises:

modifying merchant content from said at least one of said plurality of merchant computer systems to redirect one or more hyper-text elements to said vendor computer system; and

reframing said merchant content as a web page of said vendor computer system; and

wherein said transmitting ~~said~~ transaction information comprises transmitting said web page to said client computer for display to said user.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8, further comprising: generating a purchase order for said items.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein a vendor of said vendor computer system forwards payments to said one or more merchants for the supplied items on behalf of said user.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, wherein said user makes payment to said vendor for said supplied items.

12-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, further comprising:

displaying a merchant icon associated with at least one of said one or more merchants at said client computer system for selection by said user; and

in response to said selection by said user of said merchant icon, providing a ~~merchant~~ list of items from at least one of said plurality of merchant computer systems to said user at said client computer system via said vendor computer system.

15. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said step of modifying responses occurs automatically.

16. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein said step of modifying responses occurs automatically.

17. (Currently Amended) A vendor computer system having computer readable program code embodied therein for implementing a vendor server to enable secure electronic commerce between a user at a client computer system and one or more merchant servers, said program code configured to perform at least the steps of:

establishing a secure communication link between a client computer system and a vendor server;

obtaining merchant content for items listed for sale from a merchant server;

~~controlling transactions between said client computer system and said merchant server, said controlling comprising~~ modifying hyper-text links in said merchant content to redirect said hyper-text links to said vendor server;

reframing said merchant content as a web page of said vendor server; and

transmitting said web page with said modified hyper-text links to said client

computer system for presentation to said user.

18. (Currently Amended) The vendor computer system of claim 17, wherein said

step of obtaining said merchant content comprises:

receiving a user request from said client computer system;

modifying said user request into a vendor request to said merchant server;

transmitting said ~~user~~ vendor request to said merchant server; and

receiving from said merchant server a response comprising said merchant content.

19. (Original) The vendor computer system of claim 18, wherein said step of

receiving said user request comprises identifying said merchant server from a plurality of

possible merchant servers.

20. (Currently Amended) The vendor computer system of claim 18, wherein said

user request is an order request, and said step of ~~transmitting~~ modifying said user request

into a vendor request to said merchant server comprises inserting user order information

into said order request.

21. (Original) The vendor computer system of claim 18, wherein said user

request is one of:

a search request;

an order request; and

a selection request.

22 - 37. (Cancelled)

38. (Currently Amended) A ~~vendor server process executed in a vendor server computer~~ secure electronic commerce system, comprising:

means for establishing a secure communication link between a client computer system and a vendor server;

means for obtaining merchant content from a merchant server;

means for <u>facilitating the purchase by a user at said client computer system of items from</u> ~~controlling transactions between said client computer system and~~ said merchant server comprising:

means for modifying hyperlinks in said merchant content to redirect said hyperlinks to said vendor server; and

means for reframing said merchant content as a web page of said vendor server; and

means for transmitting said web page to said client computer system for presentation to ~~a~~ <u>said</u> user.